

JANUARY 25, 1817.

Read twice and committed to a committee of the whole House, on
Monday next.

A Bill

*Making provision for the establishment of additional Land Offices
in the Territory of Missouri, and for the final adjustment of claims
to town and village lots therein.*

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That*
3 for the disposal of the lands of the United States, west of the
4 Mississippi river, and in the Territory of Missouri, in addition
5 to the Land office now established by law, there shall be es-
6 tablished within the said Territory the following offices, to
7 wit: One at the seat of justice, in the county of Howard, for
8 all the lands lying within the following boundaries: beginning
9 on the Missouri river, at the mouth of the Great Osage river,
10 thence up, and with the Osage river to where the Osage boun-
11 dary line, running due north and south, crosses the same,
12 thence north with the Osage boundary line to the Missouri
13 river, thence up the Missouri river to the mouth of the Kansas

14 river, thence from a point opposite the mouth of the Kansas
15 river, running with the Indian boundary line due north one
16 hundred and forty miles, to where the same meets the Indian
17 boundary line running due east and west at right angles, thence
18 due east with the Indian boundary line to a point where a line
19 drawn due north from the mouth of the Osage river would
20 meet the same at right angles; and one at such place in the
21 county of Arkansas as the President of the United States shall
22 designate and deem most convenient for the inhabitants there-
23 of, for all the lands bounded on the south by the thirty-third de-
24 gree of north latitude, or the northern boundary line of the State
25 of Louisiana, thence north up, and with the Mississippi river to
26 the mouth of the St Francois river, thence from the mouth of the
27 said river due west to the Osage boundary line, thence due south
28 with the Osage boundary line to the Arkansas river, where
29 the said Osage boundary line ends, thence due south to the
30 thirty-third degree of north latitude, or the northern boundary
31 line of the State of Louisiana; and one at the seat of justice, in
32 the county of Lawrence, for all the lands bounded on the south
33 by the line due west from the mouth of the St. Francois river,
34 thence up the Mississippi river to the thirty-sixth degree of
35 north latitude, thence due west with that parallel of latitude to
36 the Osage boundary line, thence due south with that line to
37 where the due west line from the mouth of the St. Francois
38 river strikes the same; and one at Jackson, in the county of

39 Cape Girardeau, for all the lands bounded on the south by the
40 thirty-sixth sixth degree of north latitude, thence up the Mis-
41 sissippi river to the mouth of Apple creek, thence a due west
42 course to the Great Osage river, thence up, and with that river
43 to where the Osage boundary line, running due north and
44 south, crosses the same, thence south with that line to the
45 thirty-sixth degree of north latitude. And all that portion of
46 land not included in either of the districts herein-before des-
47 cribed, and bounded on the south by the line running due
48 west from the mouth of Apple creek, thence up, and with the
49 Mississippi river to the mouth of the river Lamoin, thence
50 west to meet the line running north and south from the mouth
51 of the Osage river, thence with that line due south to the Mis-
52 souri river opposite the mouth of the Osage river, thence with
53 and up the Osage river to where the west line from the mouth of
54 Apple creek strikes the same, shall belong and appertain to the
55 Land office now established by law at St. Louis, in the county
56 of St. Louis. *Provided always,* That it shall and may be law-
57 ful for the President of the United States to vary either of the
58 boundary lines of the land districts hereby established, so far
59 only as to make the same correspond with the sectional, or
60 township lines, that may be nearest the points or lines herein
61 designated, so as to prevent the boundary lines dividing sec-
62 tions, to place a part of the same section or township in
63 two land districts.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That so soon as, in the
 2 opinion of the President of the United States, there shall be a
 3 sufficient quantity of the public lands surveyed within all, or
 4 either of the land districts hereby established to authorize the
 5 opening of all or either of the land offices aforesaid, he shall
 6 cause the same to be opened, and shall proceed, from time to
 7 time, to appoint for each of the said offices a register and a re-
 8 ceiver of public moneys, who shall give security in the same
 9 sums, and in the same manner, and whose compensation,
 10 emoluments, and duties, and authority shall, in every respect,
 11 be the same in relation to the lands which shall be disposed of
 12 at their offices, as are, or may be provided by law in relation
 13 to the registers and the receivers of public moneys in the seve-
 14 ral land offices established for the disposal of the lands of the
 15 United States north of the river Ohio, and above the mouth of
 16 the Kentucky river, or by any other law subsequent thereto.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all the provisions of
 2 the act of the thirteenth of June one thousand eight hundred
 3 and twelve, entitled "An act making further provision for set-
 4 tling claims to lands in the Territory of Missouri," so far as
 5 the same relates, in any manner, to the rights, titles, and claims
 6 to town or village lots, out lots, and common field lots, and
 7 commons in, adjoining, belonging, and appertaining to the towns
 8 and villages in the first section of the said act named and re-
 9 cited, shall be, and the same are hereby revived and continued

10 in full force: *And moreover*, The town or village of the Mine-
11 a-Burton, in the county of Washington, in said Territory,
12 and not named in the aforesaid act, shall be placed, construed,
13 taken, and considered to be within all the provisions of the said
14 act, and the same shall extend thereto in the same manner, and
15 as fully in all things, matters, and respects as though the same
16 had been included and named in the said act at the time of the
17 passage thereof.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That every person or per-
2 sons claiming any town or village lot, out lot, common field
3 lot, and commons in, adjoining, belonging, or appertaining to
4 the several towns or villages, as aforesaid, and referred to, and
5 where claims have not been heretofore filed with the commis-
6 sioners or the recorder of land titles for the said Territory,
7 shall be allowed until the first day of June, one thousand eight
8 hundred and eighteen, to deliver notices in writing, and the
9 written and other evidences of their claims to the register and
10 receiver of public moneys now established by law in said Ter-
11 ritory; and the notices and evidences so delivered within the
12 time limited by this act, shall be recorded in the same manner,
13 and on the payment of the same fees as if the same had been
14 delivered at any time before the first day of December, one
15 thousand eight hundred and twelve under any law of Congress
16 subject to the same limitation and forfeitures of rights, in case
17 of non-compliance with this act, as is provided by former laws.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty
2 of the register and receiver of public moneys of said Territory,
3 as aforesaid, to receive the notices and evidences of claims, as
4 aforesaid, and to record the same in books to be kept for that
5 purpose, and to decide upon, and perform the same duties in all
6 things in relation thereto, as was provided for the recorder of
7 land titles to perform by the above-recited act of the thirteenth
8 of June, one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That in all cases of
2 claims contemplated by this act, where the claimant or claimants
3 may have filed notice of his, her, or their claim, or claims, and
4 has not produced sufficient proof in support thereof, or where
5 the proof was incomplete or insufficient, such person or persons
6 shall be, and hereby are allowed, until the first day of June, one
7 thousand eight hundred and eighteen, next, to produce testi-
8 mony in support of such claim or claims; and it shall, more-
9 over, be lawful for the claimant or claimants to withdraw from
10 the records and files of either of the boards of commissioners,
11 or the recorder of land titles, in said Territory, and file anew
12 with the register and receiver of public moneys, all the testi-
13 mony and evidences of their claims; and all persons, where
14 claims to town or village lots, out lots, common field lots, and
15 commons, have not been filed, in conformity to the provisions
16 of the several acts of Congress relating thereto, in said Terri-
17 tory, may and shall have the same time to give another or new

18 notice, or complete the same and all the testimony and evidences
19 thereof, as in other cases.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of
2 the the late recorder of land titles for said Territory as the de-
3 positary of the books, records, and papers of the several boards
4 of commissioners of said Territory, and as the keeper of his
5 own books, records, and papers as recorder of land titles for
6 said Territory, from time to time, and at all times to furnish to
7 the said register and receiver of public moneys all such docu-
8 ments, evidences, and transcripts of records, as by the said re-
9 gister and receiver of public moneys shall be called for, and by
10 them deemed necessary to enable them to perform the duties
11 imposed on them by this act.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the said register and
2 receiver of public moneys each shall receive, for the services
3 to be performed under this act, the sum of fifty cents for each
4 case they shall decide, in full for their services.